

1999 Session of the Indiana General Assembly

State budget provides tax cuts, funding for education

The new state budget will make a very real difference in the lives of many Hoosiers. Some of the highlights include:

Program Funding

- Public education: Statewide total formula funding increase of an average of 4.7 percent in calendar years 2000 and 2001, with minimum guarantees of funding increases of at least 2.5%. Funding was increased for both at-risk and academic honors programs. Non-English speaking students received \$700,000 annually in funding in a first-time budget line item. Local schools and libraries also received \$76 million in technology funding.



Rep. Klinker discusses legislation with Gov. Frank O'Bannon.

- CHOICE: \$5 million increase per year in funding for home health care for the elderly
- Higher Education: appropriations were increased by 7.0 percent in fiscal year 2000 and 4.7 percent in 2001. State schools will also receive \$79 million for a technology upgrade.
- Vocational education: incentives for school corporations to provide programs in which high employment demand exists
- A new \$50 million 21st Century Research and Technology Fund that will promote high-tech and biomedical industries located in Indiana -- I authored this proposal.
- Funding for the seriously mentally ill is increased by \$3 million in 2000 and \$6 million in 2001.
- Mentally Retarded / Developmentally Disabled programs will receive \$39.3 million in funding.
- The Indiana Arts Commission will receive \$750,000 annually

Savings to Taxpayers

- Elimination of county welfare fund and county welfare administration funds from local property taxes (two-year savings: \$67.6 million);
- Elimination of inventory tax for 87 percent of farms and businesses (two-year savings: \$129.6 million).

Hoosiers will save \$672 million over the next two years in tax cuts

- Homeowners: a new income tax deduction for property taxes up to \$2500
- Senior citizens income tax deduction: an increase from \$1000 to \$1500
- Senior citizens property tax deduction: an increase from \$1000 to \$2000
- Dependent children: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1000 to \$2500
- Small Businesses: property tax "add-back" repealed so business owners can deduct the amount of their property taxes from their state income taxes
- Renters: an increase in the income tax deduction from \$1500 to \$2000
- Mobile Homes & Campers: eliminated property taxes on mobile homes and campers valued up to \$37,500
- Long-Term Care Health Insurance: an income tax deduction for the premiums paid for long-term health care insurance

Tippecanoe County Projects

Total Build Indiana Appropriations

- Wabash River Heritage Corridor -- \$5 million
 - Wabash Landing redevelopment, parking facility -- \$625,000
- Long Center for the Performing Arts -- \$450,000
- Museums at Prophetstown -- \$500,000
 - the park received an additional \$6.5 million
- Lafayette Volunteer Fire Department -- \$150,000
- Lafayette Trench Rescue -- \$100,000
- Imagination Station renovation and expansion -- \$49,000
- Equipment for WEA Township Community Fire Department -- \$30,000
- Food Finders Food Bank: warehouse facility construction -- \$20,000
- Friends of the Zoo -- \$20,000
- Historic Renovation of Lafayette Theatre -- \$18,000
- Wabash River Parkway Commission -- \$10,000
- Tippecanoe County Historical Association -- \$7,000
- City of Lafayette Fire Department for purchase of equipment -- \$5,000
- Battleground Central District Street Improvements -- \$25,000
- Higher Education Capitol Improvements**
 - Ivy Tech - Lafayette Campus -- \$10.9 million cash
 - Purdue University Visual Performing Arts Building -- \$20,750,000
 - Boiler Upgrade -- \$18,554,000
 - Cooperative Extension Agents -- \$2.8 million
- Local Roads**
 - Tippecanoe County -- \$2.3 million
 - Lafayette -- \$1.1 million

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Education

ISTEP Gateway Examination -- House Enrolled Act 1050 allows students who do not pass the ISTEP Gateway Examination to graduate, provided they meet certain other requirements. The legislation also provides that the case conference committee determines eligibility for graduation of certain students with disabilities. The Act also provides that all students in Grade 10 must take the examination.

Reading Skills -- Senate Bill 632 establishes a reading diagnostic program designed to improve skills among younger students. The program allows children in first and second grades to receive an individualized plan if it is determined they are having difficulty reading.

Educational Standards -- House Bill 1750 created a roundtable to develop education standards for Indiana students. Standards would be set for each grade level, easily comparable to national and international standards, written in an easy-to-understand manner, and distributed to students and parents.

Postsecondary Proprietary Education Grants -- House Bill 1698 combines the higher education award program for students at postsecondary proprietary educational institutions with the award program for students at other institutions of higher learning.



Rep. Klinker presents a resolution honoring Purdue University Coach Tiller and Purdue University football players.



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House publications available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling toll-free 1-800-382-9842:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

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Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 1-800-382-9842. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

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Natural Resources.	1-800-622-4931
Utility Regulatory.	1-800-851-4268
State Tourism	1-800-289-6646
Department of Correction. .	1-800-680-5889
Department of Education . .	317-232-6611
Department of Health	317-233-1325
Family & Social Services . .	317-233-4454

Rep. Klinker's legislation

Enterprise Zones -- House Bill 1983 allows Siemans, formerly Landis & Gyr factory, into the Lafayette Urban Enterprise Zone. This was an incentive to encourage the business to remain in Lafayette. The legislation also extends tax credits for pass-through entities.

Environmental Liens -- Funding was allotted for the cleanup of our landfill in House Bill 1544.

Custody Modification -- Senate Bill 2 eases a child's passage through the court system in a paternity or marriage dissolution action.

Home Health Care Aides -- House Bill 1673 allows the state department of health to include home health aides who have successfully completed a competency program in the registry of nurse aides.

Health Professions Bureau -- The Health Professions Bureau will have more flexibility when considering the renewal application of a practitioner under House Bill 1826.

MRDD / Assisted Living -- Senate Bill 606 increased the personal needs allowance for nursing home residents from \$35 to \$50. The allowance enables senior citizens to purchase items that provide a measure of personal dignity for those who must stay in assisted living facilities or nursing homes. The legislation also provides the ombudsman with independence and autonomy over investigators and complaints concerning

services for MRDD constituents. It also addresses the need for low-income housing for MRDD residents.

Childhood Hazards Program -- House Bill 1547 expands the shaken baby syndrome education program to include other childhood hazards.

Purdue University Trustees -- House Enrolled Act 1672 allows an alumnus of Purdue University who does not live in Indiana to serve as a trustee for Purdue University.

Higher Education -- House Bill 1821 allows a member of the Higher Education Commission to be a public employee if the person is not an employee of a college or university. The legislation also allows the student member of the commission to be an employee of a college or university.

Adoption -- Child placing agencies will now be required to conduct a criminal history background check on each petitioner for each adoption under House Bill 1284.

Authority to Claim Doctorate Degree -- Senate Bill 138 provides that certain professional boards in Indiana may or may not authorize an individual to claim to have a doctorate degree or to use a title associated with a doctorate degree. An individual may not claim to be a physician unless the individual holds a license.

Hospitals -- Senate Bill 527 allows a longer length of stay for patients in acute care hospitals by redefining "extended length of stay".